"A Study of Economic Distress of Farmers in Osmanabad District"

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Research Scholar

BIRAJDAR NITIN MALLINATH M. Com., M. Phil

Research Guide

DR. K.B. PATOLE M. Com., Ph. D.
Assistant Professor,
K.K.M.College Manwat, Dist- Parbhani
Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University,
Nanded (Maharashtra).

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Introduction

Although poverty has been declining substantially over the last twenty years in many regions of the developing world (Ravallion et al., 2007), there is an intense public debate on continuing immizerization in many low-income countries. In particular, rural areas often do not be net proportionally from aggregate economic growth (World Bank, 2007). In India, rural poverty remains significantly higher than its urban counter- part. According to Ravallion et al. (2007), 29 precent of rural inhabitants lived under the national Indian poverty line in 2005 compared to 25 pecent in urban areas, and this wedge has not narrowed since the acceleration of India's economic growth around the early 1990s. Perhaps more than India's success in rural poverty reduction, suicides by farmers in India's rural areas have received an immense global and domestic media attention over the last ten years.1 Increasing agrarian distress in the form of economic liberalization, shift from subsistence o cash crops, and depleted environmental resources has been held responsible for this phenomenon and also been a central issue in recent national election campaigns in India.2 In this Study, we empirically investigate the interrelationship be- tween risk, structural change in agriculture, and suicides by farmers in India, Maharashtra and Osmanabad district. In line with existing theoretical work on suicides by economists (e.g. Hamermesh and Soss, 1974), we view farmer suicides as an expression of extreme self-perceived misery. Moreover, in the largely agrarian economy that we Study here, we regard suicides by farmers as an important aspect of rural welfare and rural immizerization that goes be- yond conventional consumption-based poverty. In our view, India since the 1990s is a particularly relevant case for such an analysis because structural change in agriculture has been proceeding at a rapid pace, in particular in the form of technological change (Matuschke, Mishra, and Qaim, 2007; Subramanian and Qaim, 2009) and market liberalization (e.g., Topalova, 2007), with important implications for rural livelihoods.

Agriculture sector has a pivotal role in Indian economy. The share of agriculture sector in G.D.P. of India was 44.0% during 1973-74 .Agriculture provides the principal means of livelihood for over 60 present of India's population. There a significant increase in production between 1951-52 to 1959-1960 was due to favorable monsoons and expansion of acreage not yield. In Indian planning agriculture sector ignored except few five years plan. Indian planning has not been given appropriate priority to agriculture. There are lots of

Limitations for protection to agriculture in new economics policy. In globalization era grant in aid of agriculture were drawn and in other hand import of agricultural products

allowed without restrictions at large amount. In the processes of industrialization there are drastic changes in climate, due to this agriculture productivity suffered. Banking sector is not ready to provide credit /loan to Agriculture for avoiding risk .Farmers were trapped by private debt. Maharashtra is suffering with same problem .Maharashtra Government took some decision tackle this problem. But unfortunately decisions taken by Maharashtra Government are not effective because after the legal provision taken by Government there is no development in farmer's life. According to some economist and socialist Agriculture sector is a bone of Indian Economy therefore farmer's must have some protection but lack of protection and favorable policies to agriculture , lead to suicides of farmers at large On this background, in the present Study I have focused on the causes of farmer's suicide , nature of problem, consequences ,and remedies.

Review of Literature

Hebous et al use district-level data on farmer's suicides in two major states during the years 1998 to 2004 to estimate the effects of transitory economic shocks and structural change in agriculture on the incidence of suicides in farm households. To elicit the causal effect of transitory economic shocks on suicides, we use rainfall conditions as an instrumental variable. For the state of Karnataka, where rainfall and poverty were especially variable around the turn of the millennium, we find that transitory spikes in poverty caused by a lack of rainfall increase suicides among male and decrease suicides among female members of farm households.

Deshmukh et al Agriculture sector is a bone of Indian Economy thereforefarmer's must have some protection but lack of protection and favorable policies to agriculture , lead to suicides of farmers at large On this background, in the present paper I have focused on the causes of farmer's suicide , nature of problem, consequences ,and remedies.

Jagan Kanthi et al Several studies conducted in India have linked the phenomenon of farmer suicides generally to agrarian crisis, particularly to crop failure, raising input prices, inferior quality of seeds and pesticides, private money lending, inter-linkages of product and credit markets and non-remunerative prices. There is a feeling of insecurity due to crop failure, land alienation and indebtedness. This has resulted in a spate of farmers' suicides in different parts of the country.

K Srinivasulu et al The research problems in social sciences could be identified to be of two types. First are of empirical nature, which can be answered, based on relevant and adequate facts. The second types of problems are those that are theoretical and interpretative in nature.

There may be lot of empirical data available but we do not know how to make sense of them and to establish the interrelationships.

The problem of the agrarian crisis and farmers' suicides is of the second type. A lot of data is available in the public domain in the form of journalistic reports, activist field reports, different fact-finding committee reports, government committee reports, research findings by scholars, etc. As a result, we have lot of details about the farmers' distress but what seems to be lacking is a comprehensive interpretation of the phenomenon showing the complex patterns and interconnections.

Significance of the Study

Farmer has to play a vital role in the welfare of a nation. The present picture is that the farmer is sacrificed and victimized in India. Though there are many reports in the newspapers and in the magazines about the crisis in the agricultural sector a detailed stud will be done about the farmers. Globalization has got a direct impact on the people of Osmanabad district because they produce for export. Therefore a Study about the farmers of Osmanabad district will tell upon the impact of globalization on the farmers. A detailed Study among the farmers in Osmanabad District will highlight clearly the causes of farmers suicide and their solutions. This Study will be useful for formulating suggestions towards the problems of the cultivators. It will help the central government to have a new approach to the demands and dictates of the super powers and their organizations. Studies of this sort will force the Government to think twice before they sign international treaties. It will help the government officials to have a new approach to the welfare of the farmers. It will also help in formulating policies when the farmers are affected by cheap imports from other countries.

Objective of the Study

1. To review the Agricultural sector in Maharashtra.
2. To Study the socio economic conditions of farmers in Osmanabad District.
3. To Study the Cropping pattern and yield level economics of Farmers in Osmanabad District.
4. To Study the Causes and Remediation's of farmers Distress in Osmanabad district.
5. To Study the government schemes and programmes provided to the farmers.

Hypothesis of the Study

1. **H_0**: There is relation between loan waiver and famers distress.

   H_1: There is no correlation between waiver and famers distress.
2. **H_0**: There is correlation between crop pattern and economic distress.

   H_1: There is no correlation between crop pattern and economic distress.

3. **H_0**: There is correlation between Government schemes, policies and economic position of farmers'.

   H_1: There is correlation between Government schemes, policies and economic position of farmers'.

Research Methodology

Osmanabad district in Maharashtra is selected for the Study purposively as it recorded a high rate of farmer suicides. The Study is based on both primary and secondary sources of information and data.

Sample Design

There are 8 revenues in Osamanabad district the researcher has selected each revenues two villages and each Villages taken 25 responds for the Study purpose on stratified random sapling method. The Study period form 2008-2009 to 2016-2017.

Tabal No: 01.

Taluka	Selected village	Responds
Osamanabad	2	25
Tuljapur	2	25
Omarga	2	25
Bhoom	2	25
Washi	2	25
Parnda	2	25
Kalam	2	25
Lohara	2	25
Total	16	200

Sours Primary Data

Collection of data:-

Primary data

Primary data and information will be collected from the respondents who happen to be close members of the deceased farmers. The data will be collected by adopting personal interview method through structured questionnaire.

Secondary data

Secondary data will be collected with the help of includes season and crop reports, statistical abstracts of Maharashtra, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), published and unpublished works of scholars, Related books, thesis, reports and monographs published by the State Government and Central Government.

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The Present Study

The present Study will be examine the A Study of Economic Distress of farmers in Osmanabad district the main focus of the Study is highlight the farmers economics distress and suicides problems, agrarian crisis, particularly to crop failure, raising input prices, inferior quality of seeds and pesticides, private money lending, inter-linkages of product and credit markets and non-remunerative prices. There is a feeling of insecurity due to crop failure, land alienation and indebtedness. And government played role in this problems. Present Study covered Osmanabad district.

Osmanabad District Profile

It is one of the historical towns of the Marathwada Region. It is located in the southern part of Marathwada, between 17.350 to 18.400 North latitude and 75.160 to 76.400 East longitudes. It is located about 600 meters above the sea level. It is bounded by Solapur district to the South – West, by Ahmadnagar district to North – West, by Beed district to the North and by Latur district to East. The total geographical area of Osmanabad district is 7512.4 sq. kms. Out of which 241.45 kms., area is urban and 7271.0 sq. kms area is rural indicating the dominance of the rural sector (i.e. 97%) The district has 8 talukas and 737 villages population is 16.57 Lakhs out of which 84.3% is rural. Density of rural population is 198 per km2. The sex ratiois 924:1000. By 31st March 2006, there were a total number of 622 Gram Panchayats in the district. There are 8 towns in the district of which Osmanabad town has B category municipally while the remaining 7 towns have C category of municipalties. Osmanabad district comes under Deccan Plateau and Hills region. It is considered as one of the most industrially backward district in the state.

Chapter Scheme:-

1. Introduction
2. Research Methodology and review of literature
3. Economic Distress and Farmer Indebtedness
4. Data Collection and Analysis
5. Conclusion and Suggestion

Scope of the Study

The present Study will be covered farmer in Osmanabad district to know the various problems and prospects faced by farmers and review the government various schemes and policies implemented in rural farmers. This Study chooses only Osmanabad district selected farmers because day to day increasing number of farmers' suicide in last at 10 years. Do the micro Study and give major suggestion to avoid farmers' suicides in Osmanabad district.

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Research Scholar
Birajdar Nitin Mallinath

Research Guide,
Dr. K. B. Patole
Associate Professor
K. K.M. College Manvat,
Dist: Parbhani, Swami
Ramanand Teerth
Marathwada University
Nanded (Maharashtra)